

26 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Follow-up to Briefing of Senator
Stennis and Bomber Defense Sub-
Committee, 24 March 1969

1. In further response to one of Mr. Kendall's final questions, these are the estimated Soviet heavy bomber numbers during the coming ten years:

Mid-1970:	105 - 110 Bears	
	<u>75 - 85</u> Bisons (including tankers)	
	180 - 195	
Mid-1973:	90 - 105 Bears	
	<u>60 - 75</u> Bisons (including tankers)	
	150 - 180	
Mid-1978:	30 - 50 Bears	
	<u>20 - 40</u> Bisons (including tankers)	
	50 - 90	

2. In response to Senator Stennis' query--Soviet heavy bombers represent what percentage of Soviet intercontinental nuclear attack capability?--we must answer in several ways.

a. In terms of numbers of delivery vehicles (aircraft, ICBMs, and SLBMs), heavy bombers and ASM carriers make up about 10 percent of the Soviet intercontinental delivery capability. We do not include tankers in this calculation.

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b. In terms of both megatonnage and numbers of individual warheads, heavy bombers can deliver 10-15 percent of the total Soviet intercontinental threat, depending on the mix of weapons carried.

c. According to present estimates, these percentages will steadily decrease over the next few years as new ICBMs and SLBMs become operational and the bomber force declines.

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- I. Representative Bates: ...In other words I am trying to get some idea of the amount of money Russia is spending on the ABM.

Reply: We have not been able as yet to break down USSR expenditures for R&D program by program because of data limitations, and this is probably where the bulk of ABM spending to date has been. If the cost of only the field deployment of the Galosh ABM system near Moscow is viewed in terms of what it would cost in the US, the cumulative total through 1968 would be about \$1 billion. This sum would include the costs of the nuclear warheads but, as indicated, exclude R&D costs. Deployment activity at these sites is proceeding at a moderate pace, currently at an estimated annual cost of less than the equivalent of \$200 million.

- II. Senator Pastore: Do you have a figure on how much of their gross product they are devoting to weaponry?

Reply: Currently we estimate that Soviet defense and space spending absorbs roughly about 8 to 10 percent of their gross national product. About three-eighths of this amount represent housekeeping costs--personnel pay and allowances, food, clothing, POL, spare parts and maintenance costs. The balance, about five-eighths, relates primarily to the procurement of major weapons and military equipment directly, or indirectly due to spending for research and development and construction of facilities such as airfields and missile sites.

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